# A Forgotten History: The American Tropical Medicine Race And Hygiene In The Philippines

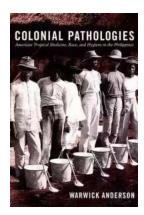
When we think of the Philippines, we often conjure images of serene beaches, vibrant cities, and a rich cultural heritage. However, beneath this beautiful exterior lies a forgotten history, one that tells the tale of how American colonizers utilized the country as a testing ground for their pursuit of tropical medicine supremacy.



#### The American Colonial Era

At the turn of the 20th century, the United States had recently acquired the Philippines from Spain after the Spanish-American War. The American colonial administration saw the islands as an opportunity to establish dominance in the

field of tropical medicine, seeking to conquer diseases such as malaria, beriberi, and dysentery to ensure the health and productivity of their military forces and economic interests.



### Colonial Pathologies: American Tropical Medicine, Race, and Hygiene in the Philippines

by Warwick Anderson(Kindle Edition)

★★★★ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 11438 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 368 pages



#### The Race for Medicinal Dominion

As American scientists embarked on their mission to tame the tropical diseases, they faced a formidable adversary - the Spanish and their own efforts in tropical medicine research. The race for medicinal dominion was on, and the Philippines became the battleground.

#### **An Army of Researchers and Physicians**

In their pursuit of medical dominance, the Americans dispatched a large contingent of researchers and physicians to the Philippines. These men were armed with the latest medical knowledge and set up laboratories, hospitals, and research facilities across the archipelago. They conducted experiments, collected data, and sought to find the most effective treatments for the prevailing diseases.



#### **Controversial Experiments and Ethical Concerns**

As the Americans pushed the boundaries of medical knowledge, they conducted experiments that were often controversial and ethically concerning. Local Filipinos, often impoverished and unable to afford proper healthcare, became convenient subjects for these experiments. This raised questions about informed consent and the ethics of using vulnerable populations to further scientific research.

#### **Women's Contributions**

In this pursuit of medical supremacy, it is important not to overlook the significant contributions made by women. Despite the time period's societal constraints, there were a number of female researchers and physicians who played a crucial role in advancing tropical medicine. Their work laid the foundation for future breakthroughs in the understanding and treatment of various diseases.

#### **Legacy and Impact**

The legacy of American tropical medicine in the Philippines lives on today. Many of the medical institutions and research facilities established during this era continue to exist and contribute to the advancement of healthcare in the country. However, the controversial methods employed during this pursuit of medical dominance still linger in the collective memory of the Filipino people.

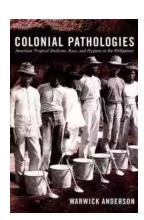


#### **Remembering the Forgotten History**

As we reflect upon the forgotten history of American tropical medicine in the Philippines, it is crucial to acknowledge both the scientific advancements made during this era and the ethical concerns that arose. By understanding the past, we can learn from it and ensure that future medical research and practice

prioritize the well-being and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

The tale of American tropical medicine race and hygiene in the Philippines is a complex and often overlooked part of history. It sheds light on the pursuit of scientific progress through controversial means and the impact on vulnerable populations. By exploring this story, we can gain a better understanding of the complexities of colonialism and its impact on healthcare practices. Let us remember this forgotten history and strive for a future where medical advancements are achieved ethically, with the well-being of all at the forefront.



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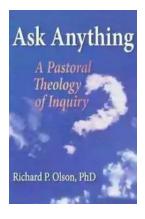
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Colonial Pathologies is a groundbreaking history of the role of science and medicine in the American colonization of the Philippines from 1898 through the 1930s. Warwick Anderson describes how American colonizers sought to maintain their own health and stamina in a foreign environment while exerting control over and "civilizing" a population of seven million people spread out over seven thousand islands. In the process, he traces a significant transformation in the

thinking of colonial doctors and scientists about what was most threatening to the health of white colonists. During the late nineteenth century, they understood the tropical environment as the greatest danger, and they sought to help their fellow colonizers to acclimate. Later, as their attention shifted to the role of microbial pathogens, colonial scientists came to view the Filipino people as a contaminated race, and they launched public health initiatives to reform Filipinos' personal hygiene practices and social conduct.

A vivid sense of a colonial culture characterized by an anxious and assertive white masculinity emerges from Anderson's description of American efforts to treat and discipline allegedly errant Filipinos. His narrative encompasses a colonial obsession with native excrement, a leper colony intended to transform those considered most unclean and least socialized, and the hookworm and malaria programs implemented by the Rockefeller Foundation in the 1920s and 1930s. Throughout, Anderson is attentive to the circulation of intertwined ideas about race, science, and medicine. He points to colonial public health in the Philippines as a key influence on the subsequent development of military medicine and industrial hygiene, U.S. urban health services, and racialized development regimes in other parts of the world.



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